G E O R G E McM I L L A N

March 15, 1972

Dear Walter:

Glad to hear from you! Glad to know you can write. I enjoyed those long talks with you. You don't mention them. Have you forgotten me? Now that it is possible for you to write me, I hope you can help me with my book.

I've been putting everything I have into the Ewing stage of Hay family life and haven't yet come to that part which will deal with your travels with James. But I am about at it. You can help me right now with one question. When James was still living in Ewing, before he went down to Alton to work in the tannery, how much time did he spend in Quincy? I know he spent a lot of time because you told me about some of the things you two used to do, your rides on the river boats , etc.

I look forward to getting any corrections on my sample chapter. Don't believe I made many. Everything in it comes from "Speedy Hazell" unless it is some stuff I got out of old land records. But I not only would like your corrections, or whatever, but also anything you want to say about that chapter i. anything you think should be added to it.

Would you and Jack like to see more of the book? I'll be glad to show it to you if you will help me, correct it, clear it up, tell me when it's phony, tell me when it is right.

As far as I know, Walter, there are no plans to make a movie out of any book about the King assassination. The best chance recently was that a movie would have been made out of Huie's book, and the Italian producer, Carlo Ponti was interested at one time. Gerold Frank has a book coming out in the next couple of weeks. He is hopeful that a movie will be made from his book. Actually, however, most of the material in Frank's book is in the public domain, a matter of public record, and there is not reason for a movie company to have to pay for the material. However, if Frank's book should become the bestseller, a famous book in itself, then a movie company might pay rights from him simply to use the title. That is what usually happens, I hear. On the other hand, most of the books about the King case have fallen flat. They've been [illegible] book projects have even been cancelled. Blair's book, [illegible] a fellow named Jim [illegible] wrote a book and

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It looks like people aren't interested too much any more in the subject of assassinations. Well, they are to some degree, but they're not going out and buy just any book any more.

From the very beginning, I have been trying to write a book that will be interesting in itself, whether you care about assassinations or not. I mean I am trying to write a book about a certain side of American life, about a young man who grew up right here in the good old U. S. A. -- and how he got to be where he is. My book is not the story of a crime. My book is the story of a man.

OK, Blair's book was wrong, you say. Write me and tell me how he went wrong then I'll know what to steer clear of.

I will look forward to hearing from your wife. Would you like me to send you a copy of Harold Frank's book when it comes out, late in April? Can I send you a copy there?

And I'll look forward to having another letter from you. Give my regards to Jack.

Sincerely,

George McMillan

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